

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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CIEP-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /161 W
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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 877

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0193

KUWAIT PASS DOHA AND MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQ'S GULF POLICY

REF: BAGHDAD 0190

1. SUMMARY: IRAQI GULF POLICY TAKING ON EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVE
TONE THAN SUGGESTED REFTEL. SINCE CHIEF SPOKESMAN,
NAIM HADDAD, IS MEMBER OF REGIONAL BAATH LEADERSHIP,
THERE LITTLE DOUBT THAT HIS STATEMENTS HAVE SUPPORT OF
REGIME. IRAQI MOTIVES PROBABLY INCLUDE DESIRE TO STRIKE OUT AT
IRANIAN SUCCESSES IN GULF AND TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM KURDISH
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PROBLEM,

END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 29 NATIONAL FRONT HELD REALLY IN BAGHDAD TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ARAB GULF AND ARAB PENINSULA. PRINCIPAL SPEAKER WAS SEC GEN OF FRNT AND MEMBER OF REGIONAL BAATH LEDERSHIP NAIM HADDAD. HE SAID INTER ALIA "IN NAME OF NATIONAL FRONT WE DECLARE OUR FULL AND DECISIVE SOLIDARITY WTITH STRUGGLES OF PEOPLE IN ARAB PENINSULA AND ARAB GULF FOR LIBERATION OF THEIR HOMELAND AND ANATIONAL RESOURCES FROM FOREIGN OCCUPATION AND DOMINATION AND FOR OVERTHROW OF WORN-OUT REACTIONARY REGIMES, ELIMINATION OF IMPERIALIST MILITARY BASES AND CESSATION OF IRANIAN POLICY OF PENETRATION AND EXPANSION IN THE AREA".

3. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR NAGGAR BELIEVES, SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTICALLY I THINK, THAT AGGRESSIVE IRAQI STAEMENTS ON GULF OF PAST FEW DAYS ARE PRIMARLILY DESIGNED TO SET STAGE FOR UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN. NAGGAR SEES GOI FOLLOWING USUSAL TWO LEVEL POLICY OF RADICAL RHETORIC AND SECRET REALISM. HE CONTRAST HADDAD,S CALL FOR OVERTHROW OF "REACTIONARY" REGIMES IN GULF TO SADDAM HUSSEIN'S STOP IN ABU DHABI TO SEE SHEIKH ZAID ON MARCH 28 AND PROBABLE VISIT OF SADDAM TO KUWAIT IN APRIL. NAGGAR SAYS THAT GOI CLAIMS IT HAS NOT YET SETTLED WITH KUWAIT BECAUSE IT WISHES TO DO SO IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL "GULF POLICY" AND THIS IS STILL BEING FORMULATED. NAGGAR ALSO BELIEVES THAT IRAQ CAN COME TOTERMSWITH BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN IF THESE TWO COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE IRAQ'S LEGITIMATE ROLE IN GULF.

4. COMMENT: I HAVE NOT GOTTEN IMPRESSION FROM OTHER ARAB DIPLOMATS THAT IRAQI REGIMEIS AS YET WILLING TO COMPROMISE ITS PRETENSIONS TO GULF LEADERSHIP TO EXTENTNECESSARY TO WIN CONFIDENCE OF GULF STATES,LET ALONE IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. HOWEVER, NEW TREND OF IRAQI POLICY WITH ITS CONCENTRATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POINTS IN THIS DIRECTION. MOST HOPEFUL SIGN THUS FAR IS SADDAM HUSSEIN'S MARCH 28 STOP IN ABU DHABI AND IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HVE SHEIKH ZAID'S IMPRESSIONS. LOWRIE
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